

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the new mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing documents comprising:
associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream according to the type of data in the data record;
associating each identifier with a format region, each format region defining an area on a document page;
specifying parameters for each format region ~~identifier that may appear in the data stream~~, where the parameters include formatting instructions ~~information~~ relating to the presentation of the data records in a document;
formatting each data record within the corresponding format region according to the parameters specified ~~for the identifier associated with the data record to create the document~~.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein formatting instructions are specified for each ~~of the one or more regions~~ format region.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters include data to be formatted in the document.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising printing the document.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifier is placed at the start of each data record.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the identifier is a fixed length character string or a variable length character string with a one or two byte field delimiter.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1
wherein said associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream is performed on a first computer,
wherein said specifying parameters for each identifier that may appear in the data stream and said formatting each data record according to the parameters specified for the identifier are performed on a second computer,
and the first and second computers are connected over a communications network.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1
wherein said associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream is performed on a first computer,
wherein said specifying parameters for each identifier that may appear in the data stream is performed on a second computer,
wherein said formatting each data record according to the parameters specified for the identifier is performed on a third computer, and
where the first, second and third computers are connected over a communications network.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the second computer does not have access to the data stream.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of formatting documents comprising:
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receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier according to the type of data in the data record;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more format regions, each format region defining an area on a document page;

receiving a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of the set of parameters correspond to each format region identifier, where the set of parameters include information relating to the presentation of the data records in a document;

formatting each data record within a corresponding format region and creating the document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record associated with the identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the document is sent to a printer for printing.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the parameters include data to be formatted in the document.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein formatting instructions are specified for each of the one or more format regions.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the first type is repeated at the beginning of each page of the document.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the second type is repeated at the end of each page of the document.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the third type is repeated on each page of the document above a grouping of related data records formatted within a format region of the forth type until all of the grouping of related data records have been formatted.

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

specifying parameters corresponding to each of one or more format regions ~~identifier that may be associated with one or more data records in a data stream~~, the parameters specify formatting instructions for one or more data records, and a plurality of parameters define a set of parameters;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more regions defining an area on a document page, wherein each data record is formatted within the one or more format regions;

receiving the data stream, where each data record of the one or more data records therein is associated with each identifier according to the type of data in each data record of the one or more data records; and

creating a document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record of the one or more data records associated with the identifier.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the set of parameters are sent to a formatter over a communications network.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein formatting instructions may be specified for each of the one or more format regions.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the following:

receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier according to the type of data in the data record;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more format regions, each format region defining an area on a document page;

receiving a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of the set of parameters correspond to each format region identifier, where the set of parameters include information relating to the presentation of the data records in a document;

formatting each data record within a corresponding format region and creating the document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record associated with the identifier.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive a data stream of one or more data records, where each data record therein is associated with an identifier according to the type of data in the data record,

associate each identifier with one of the one or more format regions defining an area on a document page;

receive a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of a set of parameters correspond to each format region identifier, and

format each data record within a corresponding format region and create a document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record associated with the identifier, where the parameters include information relating to the presentation of the data records in a document; and

a data storage device memory to store data and instructions to be used by the processor.